

**Remarks**

**I. Introduction**

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 1, 2004. The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4-14 and 17-23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,719,872 (Dubberly et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,278,894 (Shaw). Claims 27, 28, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,724,411 (Eisdorfer et al.) in view of Shaw. Claims 11 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dubberly et al. in view of Shaw and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,598 (Strauss et al.).

In response, Applicants have amend claim 27. New claims 44 and 45 have been added. Claims 2, 3, 15, 16, 29 and 34 – 43 have been previously cancelled. Claims 1, 4-14, 17-28, 30-33, 44 and 45 are currently pending and remain for consideration.

**II. All Pending Claims are Allowable Over the Cited Art**

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,719,872 (Dubberly et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,278,894 (Shaw). Both independent claims 1 and 14 are distinguishable over Dubberly et al. and Shaw as follows. Claims 1 and 14 contain limitations directed to the processing unit providing a greeting and routing a received signal to one of the multiple ports which has been selected by an end user using the greeting. The Office Action, in rejecting claims 1 and 14, admits that Dubberly et al. does not disclose this aspect of the invention, and relies on Shaw as disclosing this aspect of the invention. However, Shaw is directed to a method and apparatus for providing customized greeting messages, and not to “routing” signals to a particular port based on an end user selection. This is a significant difference and as such, Shaw does not supply the missing disclosure.

More particularly, as indicated at col. 2, lines 54-58, Shaw is directed to selecting a particular greeting based on an identification of the caller (i.e., the Incoming caller line

identification (ICLID)). Selecting a greeting based on a caller identification is not the same as routing a signal to a port based on an end user selection using a greeting. The Office Action cites col. 3, line 35 – col. 4, lines 1-5 as disclosing this aspect of the invention. However, there is no such disclosure in the cited section. The cited section of Shaw clearly indicates that calls are simply routed to a destination telephone in a conventional manner. See for example Shaw at col. 3, lines 54-66. Since Shaw merely discloses conventional routing, and not routing signals to a particular port based on an end user selection using a greeting, claims 1 and 14 are allowable over Dubberly et al. and Shaw.

Independent claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eisdorfer et al. in view of Shaw. Claim 27, as amended, is directed to “[a] method of associating a directory number with multiple ports on an end user interface located at a customer premises, in a broadband communication system supporting Internet Protocol telephony service”. Eisdorfer et al. does not disclose “an end user interface” which is “located at a customer premises” as claimed. As shown in Fig. 1, and described in particular at col. 4, lines 29-33, and more generally at col. 4, line 23 – col. 5, line 25, the switching service points (110, 120, 130) of Eisdorfer et al. are network devices, and not end user interfaces located at the customer premises as claimed in claim 27. Further, the ports of the switching service points are not “multiple ports on [an] end user interface” as claimed in claim 27. In addition, Eisdorfer et al. does not disclose “a broadband communication system supporting Internet Protocol telephony service”, but instead discloses a method for use in “the field of local telephone switching systems”. In addition, for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claims 1 and 14, Shaw does not disclose “selecting a port using said greeting” and “directing said incoming call to said selected port”. For these reasons, claim 27 is allowable over Eisdorfer et al. and Shaw.

For the reasons discussed above, independent claims 1, 14 and 27 are allowable over the cited references. All remaining dependent claims depend from an allowable independent claim and are therefore also allowable. In addition, the dependent claims recite additional allowable subject matter as follows.

Dependent claims 4-6 are directed to aspects of the invention in which the processing unit provides a message after the greeting, where the greeting and message are customized, and where multiple greetings and messages are stored. The Office Action does not address these limitation and as such, has failed to make a prima facie showing of obviousness with respect to these claims. As such, Applicants request withdrawal of the §103 rejection with respect to these claims. If the Examiner persists in the rejection of claims 4-6, Applicants request a particular application of the cited references to the limitations of claims 4-6.

Dependent claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 are directed to an aspect of the invention in which an end user device provides a distinctive alert or ring. The Office Action cites Dubberly et al. at col. 30, lines 32-40 and lines 56-67 as disclosing this limitation. This section of Dubberly et al. discloses an alarm condition which may result in response to an interruption of the coaxial cable (e.g., a cut in the cable) to a particular subscriber's equipment. This does not disclose the claimed subject matter of distinctive alerting or ringing. In fact, if the cable to the customer premises was cut or interrupted, then there would be no way to signal a distinctive alert or ring to the customer premises. Therefore, claims 7, 8, 20 and 21 are allowable over the cited references.

Dependent claim 9 and 22 are directed to an aspect of the invention in which an end user device displays or announces an identity of a port selected by the end user. The Office Action cites Dubberly et al at col. 16, lines 42-48 as disclosing an end user interface and Shaw at Fig. 2 (col. 3, lines 42-46) as disclosing an ICLID display. However, mere disclosure of an end user display does not render the claimed subject matter of an end user interface displaying or announcing an identity of said one of said multiple ports selected by said end user. The cited references do not disclose this aspect of the invention.

New dependent claims 44 and 45 have been added. These claims are directed to the aspect of the invention in which the end user interface is located at a customer premises. These claims add novel subject matter for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 27.

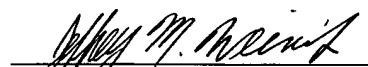
**III. No New Matter has Been Added**

The amendment to claim 27, and new claims 44 and 45, do not add new matter. The limitation of “located at a customer premises” is supported in the application as filed at least in Fig. 1 which shows the broadband residential gateway 300 within the customer premises equipment 102.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey M. Weinick  
Reg. No. 36,304  
Attorney for Applicant  
Tel.: 973-533-1616

Date: July 20, 2004  
**AT&T Corp.**  
**Room 2A-207**  
**One AT&T Way**  
**Bedminster, NJ 07921**